command and control of Indian forces, their role and mandate, and the relationship with the UN were also discussed.

(c) The U.S. officials offered clarifications on some of the political and operational issues raised by Foreign Secretary. They provided their assessment of the situation in Iraq as well as the U.S. interpretation of the UNSC Resolution 1483.

Assurance by U.S. President to prevent infiltration

492. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Petersburg, the U.S. President assured him to impress upon President of Pakistan to take effective steps to prevent infiltration by militants into J&K; and

(b) if so, what is Government's information regarding the steps taken to carry out the assurances in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The United States maintains that it continues to press Pakistan for an end to cross-border infiltration. President Bush said at the joint press briefing with President Musharraf after their Camp David meeting on 24 June 2003; "we discussed the need to address extremism and cross-border infiltration, and I assured the President that the United States will do all we can to promote peace". A senior U.S. official stated in his briefing. "I think the president put it about as well as anybody can, which is what we expect and what we think Musharraf needs to commit to and we think he has committed to is a hundred percent effort at trying to stop cross-border incidents."

Talks with China

493. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what new relations have been established with China through the Prime Minister's visit to that country;